THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways have decided to draw up a proposal strengthening the Golden Quadrilateral and its two diagonals connecting the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The -investment, required for these capacity enhancement works, has been estimated to be in the range of Rs. 8000 crores. All possible avenues of funding, including multilateral financing and the creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for mobilising funds are being explored. The proposal for creation of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) is presently being processed for necessary sanction.

(d) The implementation schedule, for the capacity enhancement works, will depend on the year to year availability of resources.

Advance purchase of Rail Tickets

1140. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering a pilot project wherein a passenger can buy an unreserved ticket well in advance for any journey he plans to undertake from any reservation counter in Delhi region;

(b) if so, whether this would remove the present practice of purchasing unreserved tickets only at the station;

(c) if so, to what extent it has helped the passengers to obtain the tickets;

(d) whether this scheme is likely to be introduced at all the stations in the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) A pilot project is being launched for developing of Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) in Delhi area shortly. Presently, passengers are required to purchase tickets from the booking offices at the journey originating station. After implementation of this pilot project, the passengers will have the facility of purchasing tickets from booking office of any of the stations where computerized UTS facility is being provided. Moreover, in future, such facility may be extended at non-station locations also.

(d) After successful implementation of this project, further course of action will be decided.

(e) Does not arise.